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"T H E R U B E D E T E C T I V E"

A COMEDY DRAMA

BY

M I R O N L E F F I N G W E L L

C O P Y R I G H T E D 1913

BY

A L E X B Y E R S

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1-K

"The Rube Detective."

A Tabloid Comedy Drama -

In Three Acts.

Alexander Smart----------"Smart Aleck" an upstage Deputy Sheriff.

Ebenezar Buzzard----------A miser crook.

William Baker----------Bronx Billy, a gun man.

Mother Kizzie Mandelbum----------Landlady of the Home Hotel.

"Bendy"----------A waif.

S Y N O P S I S.

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Act 1:- Back room of the Bar of the Home Hotel. N. Y.

Act 11 & 111:- Sitting Room of the Home Hotel.

---oooOOOOOOOOooo---

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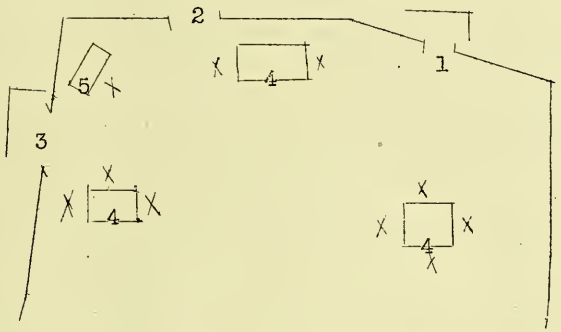
Act First.

Scene:- Back Room off the Bar of the Bar of the Home Hotel. This is the typical back room of a low Raines Law Hotel. N. Y.



E X P L A NA T I O N.

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(1) Door L U E.Bar Backing. (2) Window up back R of C. Exterior Backing. (3) Door R Interior backing. (4) Tables and chairs, as per diagram. (5) Piano and stool R.U. Signs and Lithos hung on walls.

---oooOOOOOOOooo---

At Rise:- Mother Kizzie Mandelbum discovered going over account book at table L. She wears apron and should be a fat comfortable looking party. William Baker, Bronx Billy a well dressed young fellow with assured manner and slight touch of swagger enters from bar L U E)

Billy

Good morning, Kizzie.

Kizzie

Good morning, Billy.

Billy

Are you letting the bar run itself.

Kizzie

There ain't no custom much at this time of the day. I'm just figgerin' how I'm goin' to pay rent and the brewery both today. Say, ain't you forgot somethin' Billy?

Billy

Forgot somethin'? Forgot nothin'. You mean my room rent? A swell chance a guy has to forget that, when he's boardin' off you. Say Kizzie I'm cleaned, just cleaned.

Kizzie

I wasn't a mentioning nothin' so low and common as dirty money, what I was a just a hintin' was, ain't you got a kiss for your little girl.

Billy

(As a matter of course) Sure! Oh I ain't sore about owin' you money. Sure not. I was just thinking about making a touch, let me have five bucks and I'll go back to the game.

Kizzie

You'll have to wait till Casey the "bar keep" gets back, he's got the combination, I ain't.

Billy

Where is Casey?

Kizzie

The Captain of the Precinct sent to question him about the guy you smashed night before last.

Billy.

(In aggrieved tone) What, and are they beefing about that? I only bounced a bottle of bees off his bean. What's that? With their Sullivan law a guy can't carry a "gat" no more, he's likely to do seven years. The judges send you up for packing steel. "Knucks" black-jacks and sich. What's a gent to carry. This little old town's gettin' to be a hell of a place to live in. I wish Casey would get back. I thought you had Bendy tend bar while he was away.

Kizzie

She's gone crazy on roller skates. I can't seem to keep her around the joint no more. (Noise outside, voices)

Bendy

(Outside) Yes, you will - Yah! Yah! Yah, come inside, and we'll put you in the veal stew for lunch to-day. You big calf. (Enters sliding on one skate. Carries the other in hand.)

Kizzie

What's going on here? (Grabs at Bendy)

Bendy

(Dodges her) I am on one skate. I just took off the other to swipe Otto Schmalz. He was fresh and--

Kizzie

Shut up! You're always scrapping with those boys! Why don't you learn to be a lady like me? Now cut out this monkey dodle business. Cut it out or I'll shut you in the cellar with the rats.

Bendy

No, you won't. I've been bait for them rats long enough.

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Kizzie

Well perhaps I'll change off and let Billy's Bull pup have a bite at you.

Billy

See here, Kizzie. I don't want no one but me feedin' my dog. It's porterhouse steaks for him. Where have you been Bendy?

Bendy

Over to Tomkins square, skatin' on the asphalt.

Kizzie

(Picks up hat) Well, you skate around here now, and mind the bar. I'm going around to the station house and see what keeps Casey. By, by, Billy, Pet. (Kisses him on cheek.)

Bendy

(Aside) Well wouldn't that make you sick. (Takes off skate)

Kizzie

I won't be long.

Bendy

(Sings) "I don't care if you never come back." (Kizzie exits L U E)

Billy

Get me a cigar Bendy?

Bendy

What kind, a Rubberino, or a Fuma de Cabbajo?

Billy

An imported cigar of course, a gentleman's smoke, for a gentleman.

Bendy

Where's the gentleman? (Looking around)

Billy

Right here. (Slaps himself on breast) (Enter Uncle Aleck, he carries an old fashioned carpet bag and umbrella.) Me! I am Mr. William Baker, and you don't want to forget it, See!

Bendy

Keep your shirt on, Billy.

Billy

Now get to Hell out of here and get me that cigar.

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Bendy

(To Aleck) What are you going to take Claude?

Aleck

You've got me wrong young lady, I ain't "Claude"

Bendy

What are you going to take?

Aleck

Thank you, I'll take this chair, if you don't mind. I'm kind of tuckered out. (Sits opposite Billy, puts carpet bag on table)

Billy

Get a gait on you, Bendy, get a gait on. (Aleck lays umbrella on table, as Bendy exits L U E)

Billy

(Indignantly) Say you-

Aleck

Me?

Billy

Yes you, This table is reserved.

Aleck

Is it.

Billy

That's what I said. So don't butt in.

Aleck

Butt in? Why I ain't no goat.

Billy.
You'll think you're a goat. If I start something, Say!
Aleck
Say it!
Billy
I don't want this "flewy" on the table. So I'm going to put it so. (Puts bag on floor) Then I'm going to kick it out the window.
Aleck
(Rising in alarm) Don't!!Don't! It may go off.
Billy.
What go off?
Aleck.
Something I've got in the bag, the annihilator! If it explodes you'll think a powder mill blew up.
Billy.
What dynamite? (Backing away and sits at other table)
Aleck
Morse! Morse! Be keerful! (Picks up bag carefully, walks after Billy sitting opposite him at other table, puts bag on it, business as before)
Billy
Keep away from me with that damned thing. (Rising going back to first table) What are you carrying it around for anyway?
Aleck
It's an invention of my friend Van Jiggins, and I am going to put it with several other inventions of his'n on the market. Do you know Jiggins?
Billy
No I don't.
Aleck.
He's a friend of St. Elmo. Do you know St. Elmo?
Billy.
No, and I never met anybody who ever did. (Bendy enters with cigar box goes over to Billy, he takes cigar)
Bendy
Well, come across.
Billy
Charge it, to me.
Bendy
Can't do it, ain't made a sale this A. M. yet.
Billy
Well sell him something. (Pointing to Aleck)and collect for this. (Lights cigar)
Bendy
Clarence! Dos't hear? What are you drinking.
Aleck
Why nuthin'. I ain't thirsty. I don't want any of your derned drinks, but hold on. (aside) I'd better buy somethin'. of this little gal, just to patronize this store, Have you any good buttermilk?
Bendy
No, just sold the last drop to a policeman.
Aleck
Have you any sweetl apple cider?
Bendy
Now you're on.
Aleck
(Rises looks at chair) On what?
Bendy
Get next, get next. (Disgusted.)
Aleck
(Looks around) Next to what?

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Bendy

Yourself, learn United States, or I'll think you're off.

Aleck

Oh, I'm off now?

Bendy

Yes, you're off your noodle. Do you want some cider?

Aleck

Yes, give me about six cents worth.

Bendy

Now your shouting.

Aleck

I ain't shouting, very loud, take your pay out of this. (Hands coin, Bendy exits L U E)

Billy

Say?

Aleck

Say it.

Billy

What use is this annihilator?

Aleck

It's a corn protector and a crow exterminator. You see the crows got so thick down in our parts they they pulled the corn up as fast as we could plant it, and they were so sassy that shooting at them with a common gun didn't do no good. So I got Jiggins to invent the annihilator. Funny you don't know Jiggins.

Billy

I don't know him and I don't want to know him.

Aleck

He's red headed and he can make anything from a sewing machine to a Presbyterian Pulpit. Well the reservoir of the annihilator holds a pound of high explosive and a pint of nail heads, and the barrel telescopes. So I can lengthen it out two feet so. (Spreads out hands, catches Billy on nose) Yep. Longer--

Billy

Say cut that. (Feeling nose)

Aleck

Over two feet. Iwon't cut an inch. Why I've killed over a thousand crows at a shot. The chickens in Deacon Taylor's orchard and blew the hind-legs off Uncle Lickshingle's "Keow". (Bendy re-enters with cider, hands it to Aleck, gives him his change)

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Aleck

Say, talking of crows, do you know anything about crows?

Bendy

He knows "Old crow" pretty well. Don't you Billy?

Aleck.

If he knows old crow, maybe he knows old Buzzard.

Bendy

Of course, he does, we all know Old Buzzard, eh Billy?

Aleck

Ebenezar Buzzard.

Bendy

Sure that's his name.

Billy.

Shut up! Bendy - don't talk so much. (to Aleck) what do you want to know about Buzzard?

Aleck.

I want to meet him.

Billy.

He's hard to meet.

Aleck.

I want him to do me a favor, a financial favor.

Bendy

Why he never did anybody a favor in his life. He makes the eagle scream on every dollar, He gets hold of. He squeezes it so tight.

Aleck.

Well, I was told he drops in here, and I want to meet him.

Billy

You're wasting your time, Mr.) Mr.---

Aleck.

Smart's my name.

Billy.

Smart eh, You look it.

Aleck.

Thanks. My first name is Alexander, Aleck for short.

Billy.

Smart Aleck, eh.

Aleck.

Yep, what's your name?

Billy

William Saymor. I am the mayor of the city. You can call me Bill.

Aleck.

Well, that's real good of you. I may have to call you someday and I won't forget it.

Billy.

Bendy, tell Kizzie when she comes in that I've just stepped over to Mulligans to shake up the police department. (exit L U E

Bendy

The only shaking you'll ever do will be for the drinks. Say you don't want to let a stiff like that kid you.

Aleck.

Little girl, come here. You're a nice girl, why don't you speak English? Tell me, your name is Bendy. That's a funny name.

Bendy

(Pause) It's the only name I've got. You see I was named after a dog.

Aleck

What.

Bendy

Yes, a bull dog, named Bendigo. He was a pet of old Mandelbum and a ribbon winner at the dog show. Old Mandelbum was Mrs. Mandelbum's husband.

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Aleck.

Her bum husband, yes.

Bendy

She's a widow now. Her husband is diseased.

Aleck.

You mean "deceased."

Bendy

Say, who's telling this you or me?

Aleck.

Go on.

Bendy

Well, Old Mandelbum, he was fond of that dog, and when I came to them, and I had no other name, he called me after him.

Aleck

Poor little gal! So you had no other name, who were your people?

Bendy

Never had none as I remember. They tell me Old Buzzard picked me up on a doorstep and brought me to the Mandelbums,

If I had people, we lost each other somehow. Darned careless of us. Say, what do you want to see old Buzzard for?

Aleck.

(Seriously) I want to show him a christians duty. A duty every true man owes to the widow and the orphan. I left behind me a troubled hearthstone up in the country where I come from and I want to return a messenger of light and glad tidings.

Bendy

I don't want to put the merry Kibosh on you, but you've come to a queer place and to queer people to expect to get any good. We're a tough bunch, and Ebenezer Buzzard he is the wustest of the wust. He ain't got no use for the widow and the orphan. Mother Mandelbum is a widow and I'm an orphan, and look where we get off. Why I never pass him without side steppin'.

Aleck

What does he beat you?

Bendy

I should extemporize.

Aleck

What.

Bendy

Why, it's only last week he put a mouse on my eye, mouse, why this was a rat. I wish someone would put a cauliflower on his ear.

Aleck

It ain't the season for cauliflowers.

Bendy

Oh you give me a pain, you're a fresh old doughnut anyway, but I sort of like you. Say how long are you going to be here?

Aleck.

I don't know yet. This here is a hotel, ain't it?

Bendy

Sure. This is the Home Hotel. Everybody who stops here thinks of home, this is so different.

Aleck.

Then I guess I'll stop here.

Bendy

Say, this ain't no place for hayseeds. If anyone cleans you, don't say I didn't put you next.

Aleck.

Ahem! Bendy, I generally attend to my own cleaning. (Re-enter Kizzie L U E followed by Buzzard. He should have eccentric character make up. He wears rusty black and his make up suggests his name)

Bendy

But I'm giving it to you straight. This ain't no place for a ministers son. You don't want to stop here.

Kizzie

If he's got the "cush" why don't he want to stop here. You little rat, are you knocking my hotel? I'll take a lemon squeezer to you. So wait on this customer, and I'll attend to this gent. (Strikes at Bendy who dodges blow)

Bendy

(To Buzzard) What will you have?

Buzzard

One large beer. (Bendy exits L U E)

Kizzie

(To Aleck) You want accommodations. I'm pretty full but I'll find room for you.

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Aleck.
That's real good of you.

Kizzie
Ain't it. Oh yes. Here at this hotel we always "take the stranger in" Is this "Junk" yourn? (Lifts bag, drops it) (Aleck picks it up) Mercy I hope you haven't brought your gold bricks already. I have some of the best on the market, Follow me, and I'll show you where I'll "stick you up" for to-night

Aleck.
I'll never get "stuck up" no matter where you put me. I ain't that kind. (Kizzie exits R. Aleck follows)

Buzzard
(Calls) You beggars brat! Hurry up with that beer.

Bendy
(Outside L) I am a hurryin'. (Enters with schooner of beer)

Buzzard
Humph! (takes small bundle from inside pocket slowly opens it. counts out five pennies) 1-2-3-4-5- (She puts beer on table L. beside him) There, Bendycount them and see if there are five or six.

Bendy
(Pretends to count) There's only four.

Buzzard
(excited) No, five. I hope to die if there ain't five.

Bendy
Of course there is. I only wanted to scare you to death.

Buzzard
Five cents is too much for a glass of beer. They're selling it at the Greeks for three. (Buzzard shivers)

Bendy
Lord bur your shaking.

Buzzard
I'm cold! (Teeth chattering) C-c-cold.

Bendy
Why don't you carry an oil stove.to heat your old cold feet. Get a chest protector to warm your old frapped heart.

Buzzard
(Barks at her) Shut up.

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Bendy
If I was you, I'd get some heavy clothes.

Buzzard
Get me some pepper.

Bendy
Pepper?

Buzzard
I want it for my beer. Hurry.

Bendy
I am a hurrying. (Rushes out L)

Buzzard
Warm clothes! All very well for people who have plenty of money, but I'm poor. Times are too hard.

Bendy
(Re-enters) Here's the pepper. (Holds up shaker)

Buzzard
Let me have it.

Bendy
Where will you have it. In the left eye the right eye, or the nose? (Puts it under his nose)

Buzzard
Achew! Achew! (Commences to sneeze) (Grabbing shaker away from her, chases her around table, sneezing all the time)

Kizzie
What's going on here?

Bendy
He's trying to kiss me. (Buzzard shakes fist at her, returns to table drinking beer)

Kizzie
Well, why didn't you let him. Isn't he my landlord. Don't I owe him rent?

Buzzard
Ugh! That lying devil's brat.

Kizzie
Now Ebenezar--

Buzzard
(Sneezes) Achew! Achew!

Bendy
Old Ebenezar.
Got pepper up his "beezer"
Ain't he a sneezer.
Say, he was shivering to death, a minute ago and now he's hot and he ain't satisfied. (Aleck enters L)

Bendy
(Aside to Aleck) Say you'd better sing out for something to drink.

Aleck.
Thanks Bendy. I ain't thirsty.

Bendy
You know Kizzie don't have any dead ones around here.

Aleck.
What do you call that. (Points to Buzzard) Is that alive?

Bendy
Yep. But it hadn't outer be. By the way, that's your man.

Aleck.
Eh.

Bendy
That's Buzzard.

Aleck
Buzzard. By thunder he looks it. He's a carrion bird, all right, Looks as if he'd lived off dead horses all his life. Well, I'm here to go through with it, and I can't back out now. (Voice outside L U E) Barkeep! Barkeep! Anybody tending bar here.

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Kizzie
(Starts) Do you hear Bendy? Why ain't you on your job? Hurry!

Bendy
I am a hurrying. (exit L U E Kizzie follows)

Aleck
(Goes over to Buzzard) Good morning sir.

Buzzard
(Looks up from beer) Well, what if it is good. (Looks at Aleck sharply) I don't know you, I don't believe I ever saw you before.

Aleck.
(Friendly voice) May be not. Good morning sir.

Buzzard
Is that what you come over here to say to me?

Aleck
Thats the way I start in until we're better acquainted.

Buzzard
I don't want to know you.

Aleck.
But you are one of the things that brought me to New York.

Buzzard
Thing? Thing? Do you call me a thing?

Aleck.
I don't know what I'll call you before I get through with you.
Buzzard
I don't make any promiscuous acquaintances and I know all the bar-room bums. I care to--(Finished beer, rises)
Aleck.
Sit down!
Buzzard
Eh.
Aleck.
Sit down Buzzard. (Puts hand on shoulder forces him down.)
Buzzard
You know my name.
Aleck.
Yes, if your first name is Ebenezer. You are the particular Buzzard I'm looking for.
Buzzard
But--(About to rise again)
Aleck.
Sit down, Buzzard. (Business as before.)
Buzzard.
What do you want?
Aleck.
My name is Smart. (Buzzard starts) I am the younger brother of Captain Harry Smart. Of course you heard of his terrible
Buzzard.
(Stammers) I - I think so, but I haven't time to- (Rises again)
Aleck.
Sit down Buzzard! (Business as before) Your glass is empty, have it filled again. (Bendy enters L U E)
Buzzard
Will you pay for it?
Aleck
Of course! Bendy, give this old man another drink, pay for it out of this. (Handing bill) And keep the change-
Bendy
Oh thank you, Mr. Aleck! (Exit L U E)
Buzzard
Ahem. Your money must come easy.
Aleck.
It comes honestly so my conscience at least is easy. But about my brother--
Buzzard
(Squirms)
Aleck.
What are you squirming about? If your name wasn't Buzzard I'd think it was "worms"
Buzzard
I have just remembered an important engagement - (Rises)
Aleck.
Sit down, Buzzard, you haven't had your drink yet. (Business as before) Yes, my brother Captain Smart returning from a successful whaling voyage and hurrying to get home to his wife was most foully murdered, and his body robbed.
Buzzard
I - (Nervously)
Aleck.
You held a mortgage on his home.
Buzzard
I hold it still.

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Aleck

(Takes out pocket book produces telegram) Just before leaving New York he wired his wife whom by the way you knew before he married her, he sent her a telegram, this- (Reads) "Have redeemed the mortgage, am bringing you the release as a present will be home to-night." (Puts telegram back in pocket book)

Buzzard

He - he never redeemed it.

Aleck.

My brother never lied to a man in his life. He couldn't lie to the woman he adored. (Bendy re-enters with beer)

Buzzard

Then you mean to say I----

Aleck.

I mean that you are threatening to fore-close. Now I am here to propose something, you say you still hold the mortgage. I will undertake to redeem it.

Buzzard

Ah.

Aleck.

In a short while we will pay the interest as before, and you'll extend the time.

Buzzard

I don't do business that way.

Aleck.

You will this time to help the widow out of her trouble. I've come here to see you, for that object as much as to bring the murderers of my brother to the Electric chair. You may be able to help me in that too.

Buzzard

I help--(Rising)

Aleck.

Yes, be a man Buzzard and don't refuse to help the widow in her need, of the memory of the murdered man and the helpless wife, he left behind him, will haunt you to the longest day you live, but if you do this act of charity of justice, the glow of righteousness will steal into your heart like a sunbeam into a shady place. Sit down Buzzard or by thunder, I'll knock you down! (Buzzard runs behind table.)

Buzzard

Help! Help!

Bendy

(Clings to Aleck) Oh Mr. Aleck, don't start nothing. (Enter Billy and Kizzie L U E Kizzie carries bung-starter)

Kizzie

What's the matter? Who's startin' anything? What gent is it, would make rough house in the peaceful Home Hotel? (Picks up chair which Buzzard has overturned) Gents before you start to break up things remember there's a lady present. (To Aleck) By the way, that reminds me, you haven't bregistered yet, come and put your "monicker" on the book, and separate yourself from some coin. Being as it's you I only collect a week in advance. (Takes Aledk by arm, leads him L U E)

Aleck.

Buzzard I'll see you again. (exits L U E with Kizzie.)

Billy

(To Buzzard who is trembling with excitement) What's the matter, Pop!

Aleck.

Do you know who that is.

Billy

What, that Rube.

Buzzard.
He's the brother of that sea-daptain that you--
Billy
Hush! (Slaps hand over Buzzard's mouth) (to Bendy) Say, haven't you work to do?
Bendy
Yes, thank you, all I want at present.
Billy
Well get about it, Hurry.
Bendy
I am a hurrying. (Exit L U E)
Buzzard
He has been threatening me about the mortgage and he said too that he's going to bring his brother's murderers to the electric chair.
Billy.
(Laughs) Indeed. What had we better do, Pop?
Buzzard
Fasten a quarrel on him, and--
Billy
Croak him, yes, we'll croak him.
Buzzard
I'm an old man, Billy. You croak him, and I'll swear you did it in self defense.
Billy.
You'd swear to anything wouldn't you? Sit there. (Indicates chair L at table L) (Produces pack of cards shuffles them) (Re-enters Kizzie and Aleck)
Billy
Kizzie, would you like to cut into a little draw poker.
Kizzie
Not now, haven't time, perhaps Mr. Smart here--
Billy
What that Rube, no thanks. He'd holler if he lost a half a dollar.
Aleck.
Who'd holler?
Billy
You--
Aleck.
I'll bet you a dime, I wouldn't
Billy.
You guys are always skinned when you come to town.
Aleck.
You can't skin me. I beat Deacon Dubey out of a bale of hay last summer. What are you going to play?
Billy
Draw poker.
Aleck
Never played it.
Billy
I'll learn you the game. It won't cost you nothing till you get the hang of it.
Aleck.
Fire away.
Billy
You deal your cards one at a time, (dealing) until you get five, then you save your pairs, You know two of a kind is a pair.
Aleck.
Yep, I see - you and Buzzard are a pair.
Billy
What do you mean?

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Aleck.
You're two of a kind. What do you do with them.
Billy.
Keep them and throw the others away. (Aleck keeps two cards) (Throws discards on floor)
Billy
Here, pick those up, we want to use them again.
Aleck.
Why didn't you say so?
Billy.
Now you want to draw three cards. You can have as many as you want, but this time you just want three.
Aleck.
I want three cards. I can have as many as I want, This time I just want three. And the man with the most pairs, wins.
Billy
Now I bet twenty dollars--(Lays down bill)
Aleck,
(Picks up bill, reads) "Clam Bank, Coney Island. Hardshell Cashier. Billy Crab Treasurer. Say Mr. Mayor is this bill good.
Billy
Good enough. I am the mayor I make them myself.
Aleck.
Now what am I to do?
Billy
You can raise me, or call me.
Aleck
What am I to call you?
Billy
It will take your twenty dollars to call me. (Aleck takes out sock from which he takes out roll of money, slips off twenty replaces sock with money in pocket)
Aleck.
There you be, I call you.
Billy
What have you got.
Aleck.
A pair of two spots and a pair of three spots.
Billy
They's no good. I have three pair of five spots, now it's your deal.
Aleck.
(Starts to shuffle. Kizzie sneaks up behind him, takes sock out of pocket, starts away with it, but sock has small rope tied to it and she is brought up with jerk as other end of the rope is tied to Aleck's waist. As Aleck turns, she drops sock, he haulrs it in, replaces sock)
Aleck.
That's another one of Van Jiggins ideas. (Deals cards) You say to deal one card at a time until you get five, and the man with the most pairs wins.
Billy.
That's what I said, (discarding) Give me three cards!
Aleck.
You can draw as many as you want but this time, you want three. (Gives Billy three cards, takes rest of deck himself.)
Aleck
The man with the most pairs wins, eh?
Billy
Sure!

Aleck.
(Picks up Billy(s discards) Might as well have these two.
Billy.
What do you bet.
Aleck.
Ten cents, I mean ten dollars. (Puts down money)
Billy
I call you. (Covering money) What have you got?
Aleck.
I've got seventeen pairs.
Billy
What.
Aleck.
Yep, Two pair, two spots, two pair three spots, two pair five spots, two pair of seven spots, two pair six spots, two pair king spots, two pair nine spots two pair jack spots - and big Casino, by Gosh! (Kizzie hangs sign on wall.)
Billy.
That's no good, I've got a cuckoo flush. (see that sign)
Aleck.
(Reads) "A cuckoo flush beats any hand to-day." What's a cuckoo flush?
Billy.
(Takes in money, shows cards) Three red ones and two black ones.
Aleck.
Say I had one of those gol-darned things, didn't know it was any good.
Billy.
(Deals) You should have kept it.
Aleck.
The man with the most pairs wins but a cuckoo flush beats anything eh? Say I'll bet everything I've got on this.
Billy.
How much have you got?
Aleck
Twenty seven fifty.
Billy.
I'll cover it. (They lay down money) What have you got?
Aleck.
(In triumph) I've got one of them cuckoos. (Kizzie changes sign)
Billy
You lose. (Tries to take money.)
Aleck.
(Throws his hand off) No I don't.
Billy
Look at the sign.
Aleck.
(Reads) "Only one cuckoo flush allowed in one game."
Billy
And I held that one. So I win.
Bendy
That's a flim-flam! (Grabs money from table) And you're not going to work it on my friend.
Billy
You little brat, give me that money, I won it.
Bendy
You didn't win on the square.
Billy
Ebenezar take it away from her.

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Buzzard
(Grabs Bendy, takes bills from her) I've got it, I've got it.

Bendy
(Struggling) You bunch of crooks, Mr. Aleck. Don't you stand for this, why what he bet against you was only advertising stuff.

Aleck.
Be quiet little gal I knew it.

Omnes
What!

Aleck.
Yep. He bet Coney Island money against me, and I bet confederate money against him. It ain't worth five cents a bushel. (Laughs) Say Mr. "Bunco" Mayor. How does it feel to be trimmed by a Rube? (Laughs)

Buzzard.
(Examining bills) It's true! Baker, it's true, he's swindled you.

Aleck.
What did you call that man? Baker. Billy. So you are Billy Baker eh, of the Home Hotel eh. You're another one of them things I came to New York about.

Billy
Kizzie, you lock Bendy in the ice box and keep in the bar yourself until I call you.

Kizzie
Billy, Don't start nothin' for Gawd's sake, don't.

Billy.
You do as I tell you. (Throws Bendy into Kizzie's arms) Damn you, do as I tell you. (Forces them both off L U E Kizzie begging and Bendy screaming and struggling)

Billy.
(Closes door L U E shuts it, and locks it putting key in pocket, faces Aleck) Now I've got you, Mr. Man? And right where I want you. (Laughs)

Aleck.
Say, that's nothin' to smile about. Maybe after you have me a while, you'll wish you hadn't.

Billy.
First you're going to give me what real money you've got about you.

Aleck.
You think I am.

Billy
Yes.

Aleck.
Think again, your first think is "nothink."

Billy.
And then for your freshness. I'm going to cut off one of your ears and put it in my pocket.

Aleck.
Holy mackerel! And is old Buzzard there going to help you.

Billy.
I don't need help. I am Bronx Billy. One of the gun men of New York City. I can lick any policeman in the ward.

Aleck.
I'm a peaceable citizen from up-state and I never claimed to lick more than a postage stamp, but I'm going to keep my money and both my ears, so keep away Bronx Billy or the coroner will think a mule has kicked you to death.

Buzzard
(Hands Billy knife) Better kill him. Billy, kill him at once. I'll testify you did it in self defense. (Billy grabs knife rushes on Aleck who up-ends table, getting it between them

17-K

Billy throws table around it hits Buzzard who howls with pain)

Aleck.

(Pulls annihilator levels it) Beware the annihilator. Get out of here, or I'll blow you both to Kingdom come. (Throws annihilator out full length Billy and Buzzard jump out window)

C U R T A I N.

2nd Curtain:-

Aleck.

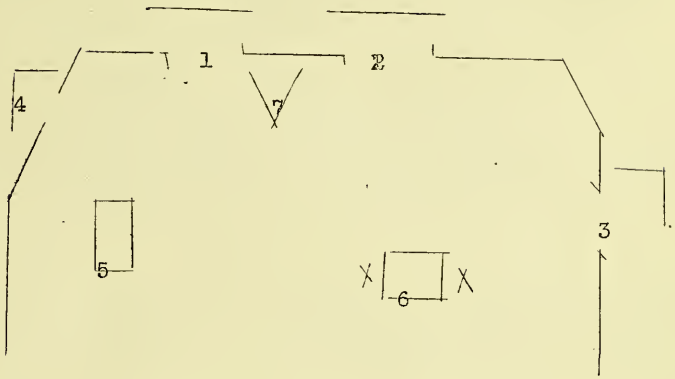
(Breaks door in L U E) Mother Mandelbum you let Bendy out of the ice box or I'll blow up your whole damned Hotel. (Bendy and Kizzie re-enter Aleck flourishes annihilator. Kizzie screams collapses in chair. Aleck explains in pantomime for-

C U R T A I N.

1-K

Act Second.

Scene:- Sitting room of the Home Hotel.



E X P L A N A T I O N.

(1) Door in flat. Interior backing. (2) Window in flat. Exterior backing. (3) Door L 2 E Lock and key. Interior backing. (4) Door R 3 E. (5) Couch. (6) Table and chairs. (7) Screen. Lamp on table.

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---oooOOOOOOOooo---

Discovered at rise:- Billy is in shirt sleeves asleep on couch. Buzzard enters hurriedly L door in flat, turns up lamp on table, then goes over to Billy, shakes him by shoulder)

Buzzard
Get up, Billy. Wake up ! Wake up!

Billy.
(Sleepily) What's the matter? I wish you'd let me alone. (Sits up on couch) What's eating you?

Buzzard
I'm nervous. The police wouldn't hold that fellow.

Billy
What fellow?

Buzzard
Why, that Rube.

Billy.
What! I'd like to know why not. Wasn't he carrying concealed weapons? Didn't he threaten us with that cannon? Didn't they find it on him? Don't the Sullivan law expressly say they can send a guy up for seven years for packing a gun unless he has a special license.

Buzzard
That's just it. He has the right. He's a deputy Sheriff from Columbia County engaged on detective duty.

Billy.
What, that Rube?

Buzzard
Yes.

Billy
And they call that justice. Why look at what they did to big Jack Zelig! Held him in ten thousand bail and on a frame up too, and him belonging here on the lower East Side. Things are going to hell here in little old New York. I think I'll move to Chicago, where gents like myself have some privileges. And so they let him go?

Buzzard.
The captain slapped him on the back and wished him luck in his enterprise, and said he could count on the police to help him.

Billy.
Hully Gee! The "Bull cap" threw that "bull con" eh, Well what do you think of that?

Buzzard
And this Sleck Smart came back here cool as you please and is drinking with Mother Mandelbum now in the bar.

Billy.
Drinking with Kizzie eh? Well, I think I'd better get Kizzie to put a peter in his booze and then separate him from his annihilator and what dough he has about him.

Buzzard.
He don't touch booze, only cider Billy, don't you think you had better turn those papers, that youtook off the sailor's body to me now. I want to see if some chemist can't get the blood-stains out of the mortgage. I am going to foreclose it next week. (Fawningly) We can destroy the release, and--

Billy
Nay, Nay Pauline. You've got to come across first. Say what do you take me for? I go and croak a guy that never did me no harm just to please you, and make you three thousand bucks and don't get much more than car fare off his stiff.

Buzzard.
You know that I am grateful.

Billy.
Grateful. Say before you get those papers. I want my bit. I've got to have more than a vote of thanks, What do you think I beat his bean in for - my health? Forget it. I spoiled a new rain coat in the job too, that cost me over thirty bucks. He tore it all to pieces. He was a tough guy. He'd a done me sure, if I hadn't had a black jack and hit him from behind. He moaned that he was fighting for "Mary" just before I put the finishing touches to him. I wonder who was Mary.

Buzzard.
His wife! Damn her! Oh I would like to have seen her face as his body was carried in.

Billy.
Oh, you knew her, eh.

Buzzard
Knew her? Why man, she has made me what I am. She was the cause of all my misery. She jilted me for her first husband, the father of her child, and then when she became a widow, I wooed her again. And the second time, she threw me over and married the man you have just murdered.

Billy.
Cut out that word "murdered" make it "croaked" It means just as much and it don't jar my nerves like "murdered" Ugh. Murder sounds like the death chamber and the Electric chair. So this Dame Mary is twice a widow eh?

Buzzard
Yes.

Billy.
And she's got a Kid, eh.

Buzzard
She had. Her baby daughter was stolen away when she was about two years old. (smiles)

Billy
And who did the kid-napping, you?

Buzzard
I didn't say I did.

Billy.
You don't have to say it. (Pause) Well, well, what a dirty old crook you are. I ain't no cherub but you've got me beat forty ways for Sunday.

Buzzard
(Whining) We're like father and son, Billy.

Billy.
Cut that! I don't like the relationship.

Buzzard.
And you'll let me have those papers of mine, Billy.

Billy.
Yes for fifteen hundred dollars.

Buzzard
What! Do you want to ruin me?

Billy
Ruin you? You'll be that much to the good on the deal.

Buzzard
Well, well, I'll give you the money.

Billy
When.

Buzzard
To-morrow.

Billy
It's a bargain.

Buzzard
Let me look at them now.

Billy.
I can't get them right now. I placed them for safety with Kizzie. You see Buzzard I don't altogether trust you. You might hire someone to take them away from me.

Buzzard.
Oh Billy, how you wrong me.

Billy
Oh yes, you're a sweet old geranium, you are. By the way what became of that Mary's child.

Buzzard
She's grown to woman hood now.

Billy
(Puts on coat) Do you know where she is.

Buzzard
Oh yes.

Billy.
Did you bring her up?

Buzzard
Ahem! I had her brought up.

Billy.
How?

Buzzard
(Fiercely) By the hair of the head. (Laughs) She's never known the joys of childhood. She's been reared among the vilest of the vile. I hope to see her an outcast- a criminal and then I will bring the beggar mother and thief daughter together and let them know it is my work.

Billy.
You are too rich for my blood Ebenezar - I'm going down to put Kizzie wise to the chloral Hydorate for that "Rube Detective" You are not fit company for a minister's son. (Exit door in flat. R at back) (Buzzard goes over to couch, picks up the "butt" of Billy's cigar cuts off piece of it, breaks it up in corn cob pipe which he produces, pulls out piece of paper in which are wrapped other butts, puts remainder of Billy'scigar in it, about to light pipe when he hears Bendy as she tiptoes across stage at back to door)

Buzzard
(turns jumps quickly to Bendy brings her down stage) What you, eh? When did you come in

Bendy.
Just now.

Buzzard.
Where were you going?

Bendy
Down stairs again.

Buzzard
Oh you came up-stairs and then--

Bendy
Then I go down stairs, yes sir.

Buzzard
Why did you come up.

Bendy
Just to come up sir.

Buzzard
And then go down--

Bendy
To go down, sir.

Buzzard
But--

Bendy
I seen you "swiping" Billy's cigar stump sir, and I didn't want you to know that I knowed you were such a cheap guy sir.

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Buzzard

Bah!

Bendy

Yes sir.

Buzzard

You are lying to me.

Bendy

Yes sir, I - I mean no sir.

Buzzard

If I was sure you had been listening to Billy and myself, I'd cut you into shoe-strings, but I know an idiot when I see one.

Bendy

Thank you, sir.

Buzzard

"Thank me" for what?

Bendy

For being an idiot.

Buzzard

You beggars brat, I'll--(Raising hand, Aleck enters door in flat. Pause- after a few seconds Aleck walks slowly towards Buzzard who retreats backwards L down stage, Aleck reaches for hip pocket Buzzard falls on knees in attitude of imploring mercy. Aleck pulls out bandanna handkerchief wipes forehead Buzzard rises Aleck starts towards him again. Buzzard backs from him again from L to R down stage, backs into couch falling over it Aleck ~~keeps~~ mounts couch, Buzzard scrambles up makes for door, exits Aleck stands by open door crash heard)

Bendy

(Excitedly) What is that? Oh, where is Buzzard?

Aleck.

He's fallen down stairs. I hypnotized him. I knew I'd do it to somebody some day.

Bendy.

Oh Aleck, I'm so glad to see you out.

Aleck.

Out? (Looks around.)

Bendy

I mean out of the station house.

Aleck.

Well, I'm glad to see you glad.

Bendy

I - I felt as worried about you as if I'd been - I'd been your mother.

Aleck.

Yes it is kind of funny. But you look strange Bendy, Oh, I see you've washed your face, and fixed your hair.

Bendy

Yes, you see - this is Saturday.

Aleck.

By gum, so it is. And you've got a clean frock on. Have you tried to stop using the slang. I warned you about--

Bendy

Sure Mike! And I'm going to tie a can to it for keeps. Oh say Aleck look out for Bronx Billy and Buzzard. They're going to put up a job on you.

Aleck.

Don't you worry little girl. I'm going to put up a job on them. The fellow Bronx Billy who was going to cut me into steaks, his name is William Baker, eh?

Bendy

Yep William Baker, but he ought to be William "Butcher"

Aleck.
Did you ever hear him speak of a lady called Pearl.

Bendy
What - Pearl "Osborne."

Aleck.
That's the name.

Bendy
Why I seen her, sure, Pearl Osborne is a "skirt" what's stuck on him.

Aleck.
A "skirt stuck on him"? I suppose that's some more of your slang.

Bendy
(Penitently) Oh I forgot. Pearl is or was his sweetheart, but he don't talk about her around here, he'd lose his meal ticket, with Mother Mandelbum. Pearl and her had an awful scrap over Billy. Pearl slammed Mother Mandelbum in the slats, and she chewed Pearl's ear off.

Aleck.
I've got you, Bronx Billy, I've got you.

Bendy
Oh Aleck, go away from here or Billy will get you. I don't know what you think you've got on him but he's bad all through. Please go, and go now, Aleck, it would kill me if anything happened to you.

Aleck.
You like me little gal.

Bendy
Like you?

Aleck.
I know I can trust you, Listen! (Takes out pocket book). (shows letter) (Kizzie appears at door, she carries a small pitcher and glass)

Aleck.
The man who murdered my brother wore a raincoatHarry must have made a fight for it, as the coat was found near the body all torn to pieces. The murderer threw it away. The torn coat itself is not much clue but in the pocket was found this letter a love letter addressed as you see, (shows letter) and signed "Pearl Osborne"

Kizzie
(Utters cry, staggers leans against door jamb) (Aleck and Bendy turn. Aleck starts up towards Kizzie as if to assist her)

Kizzie
Thanks! Thanks! Oh I'm all right. I'm a little lightheaded I fell off the water wagon to-day. (Aleck puts back letter in pocket book in breast)

Kizzie
Bendy, haven't you nothing better to do than to stay up here, annoying this gent and him wanting to go to bed.

Aleck.
She's good company, Mrs. Mandelbum.

Kizzie
I want her to go to her work, she's always stalling around. Get along with you! (Bendy goes up slowly pauses at door)

Kizzie
I was thinking Mr. Smart, seeing as how much you like cider, that you'd like some more before you go to bed. (Pours out some in glass)

Aleck.
That's real kind of you, sometimes when I've a pint, I sit up till ten o'clock.

Bendy

Don't drink it, don't - don't--

Aleck.

Pshaw- cider ain't intoxicating, I can drink a barrel of it. (drinks from glass)

Kizzie

(to Bendy) Get out or I'll change your map so that your own mother if you had one couldn't tell you from Kid Broad. (Bendy with a despairing gesture exits door in flat)

Kizzie

Are you going to stay long in New York, Mr. Smart.

Aleck.

Just long enough to complete my business.

Kizzie

And what is your business?

Aleck.

At present I am in the fancy iron business. (Exhibits handcuffs) Heres a little invention of my friend Van. Jiggins. It's called a patent regulator" I am going to try to unload it myself and get it on the hands of a couple of parties here in New York. And when I do- I - I - (Yawns) I think I'll go back home. Say, I think I'm sleepy. (Puts handcuffs back in pocket) I'll - I'll go to - to bed if you don't mind. Good night! (Exits unsteadily L 2 E)

Kizzie

Them knock out drops is angelic. I didn't have to give him a second dose. He'll be dead to the world in a minute. What did he mean by talking about that cat, Pearl Osborne to Bendy. That seemed to be a letter of "hern" that he had, (goes over cautiously to door L peeps in) He's thrown himself down on the bed, with his clothes on. Humph! He ain't no christian or he wouldn't do that! I'd better get on my "touch" job. The effects of that mite of chloral hydrate won't last long. (She exits cautiously L 2 E)

Bendy

(re-enters crosses quickly and quietly to R 3 E exits for couple of seconds reappears with vials) (Holds it up) Kizzie's smelling salts and aromatic spirits of pneumonia that she uses to get over her jags. I'll watch my chance and wake him up. (Door L 2 E re-opens Kizzie re-enters Bendy draws behind screen at bac)

Kizzie

(Has pocket book and the Annihilator) I pinched his leather and the Annihilator. I guess I'll put the Annihilator in the bath tub and let the water run on it. (She locks door L 2 E leaving key on outside, then exits R 3 E) (Bendy steals down from behind screen unlocked door L 2 E taking key, exits and locks door from insice)

Kizzie

(Reoenters with pocket book in hand takes out bills counts them) Eighteen bucks. Well he ain't no "Pierpont Morgan" - never mind. I'll put it in the bank. (slips money into stocking) Now these papers. (goes over papers, holds up letter) The letter. (Reads) Mr. William Baker. The Home Hotel. 99 Chrystal St. and its from that dame. I'll fix her for daring to write to my Billy. (Takes out letter reads) "My own Darling Honey boy Bill:- I've got the use of Abe Winsbergs auto this week. See if you can't chloroform that old chromo Kizzie and we'll go to Coney's Isle together, and we'll have supper at the same joint as last Wednesday It just makes me sick to think of my own sweetness being tied to an ugly withered fossil old enough to be his mother. Fly the coop precious boy, and we'll go to Chicago. Get all you can get out of her, and then give her "rough on rats" Your baby Doll, - Pearl Osborne. P. S. I send you a million kisses.

Oh! Oh! Oh! (Walks to and fro in rage) I'll find her, I'll spoil her face "chloroform that old chromo Kizzie" eh, and they mean me, me, and I've let him have my money. I've been the best friend he ever had. I'll throw acid in his face. I'll- and to think how I loved that man, oh the snake. Snake! (Sobs hysterically) (Enter Billy door in flat)

Billy

Hello Kizzie! Have you done the job?

Kizzie

Yes, I've done it, I've done it.

Billy

What did you find.

Kizzie

Oh I found enough.

Billy.

Enough money, or enough what?

Kizzie

Enough to make me want to murder you, you dog. Chloroform that old chromo Kizzie eh? Did you? Give me rough on rats. I'll rats" both of you.

Billy

What in blazes are you talking about.

Kizzie

Oh, I'm wise now, I know all about you and Pearl Osborne.

Billy.

I thought we had buried that. I haven't seen her for a year.

Kizzie

Oh you liar! You liar.

Billy

You know I only love you.

Kizzie

You crocodile. You snake.

Billy

See here, I am sick of your nagging, now cut it out, or I'll shake you for good. I am thinking of going to Chicago anyway.

Kizzie

So that hussy said. But you shan't trim me out of any money to go on.

Billy

I don't want your money. We'd better end this right now, Give me that envelope, I handed you to keep for me.

Kizzie

I haven't got it.

Billy

Don't lie to me.

Kizzie

Casey has it in the safe.

Billy

Come down with me, and get it.

Kizzie

I won't.

Billy

Yes you will.

Kizzie

I won't.

Billy

I want to raise some dough on it.

Kizzie

I'm not going to help you to be happy with that cat.

Billy
You'll do as I tell you, or I'll persuade you in the usual way.

Kizzie
You shall not, never again.

Billy.
We'll see. (Seizes her) I think you are lying to me about Casey any way. You've got my property in your room. I'll l tear the whole place to pieces but what I'll have what's coming to me. (Throws her down L)

Kizzie
What's coming to you is the Electric chair, you beast. (Runs after him and grabs him, he strikes her she screams, they struggle off together #3R E) (Noise continued off stage)

Kizzie
(Outside) Don't Bill! Don't! (Moans) (Pause, dead silence) (Re-enter Billy he looks around looks at his hands which are bloody wipes them on handkerchief which Aleck has left on table, adjusts clothes) (exits door in flat) (Sound of key in lock door L 2 E opens Bendy appears leading Aleck who moves slowly showing effects of opiate)

Bendy
Here, let me open this window. The fresh air will brace you better than anything. (Leads him to window, opens it. Aleck sinks in chair by window)

Kizzie
(Re-enters R 3 E She crawls on stage her clothing is torn and dishevelled and her face shows the effect of the beating. She moans as she drags herself along.)

Bendy
(As she turns from window, catches sight of Kizzie and screams, goes to her L Aleck staggers to feet, makes his way with difficulty and endeavors to assist Bendy who is trying to help Kizzie to couch)

Kizzie
(Faintly) Bendy! Phone for a doctor, quick! (Sinks on couch)

Bendy
(On sign from Aleck, exits door at back)

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Aleck.
(Who is supporting Kizzie as she is seated on couch) Who has done this?

Kizzie
Never kind! I'll get hunk, he shan't live happy with her. (sinks back on pillow, head down stage) (In pain and sobbing) Has Bendy gone?

Aleck.
Yes.

Kizzie
Good little scout. Bendy - I - I don't want to go before I tell her who her folks are.

Aleck.
If you know, in God's name tell me.

Kizzie
Time enough! Time enough! Where did you get this letter from that Osborne woman.

Aleck.
(Feels breast, realizes he has been robbed, takes letter which is crumpled up in Kizzie's hand) I took it out of the pocket of the rain coat left by my brother's murderer.

Kizzie
(Moans) It's him, my God. It's him.

Aleck.
You know, speak! I don't want to make any mistake, and wrong the innocent.

Bendy
(Re9enters) The doctor is coming as fast as he can.
Aleck.
Speak woman, Speak that justice may be done, who is the man.
Kizzie
No, I'm game, I never snitch on a pal, never, never.
Aleck.
At least do right by Bendy, think you may be but a few seconds from eternity. Don't go before the throne of grace with such guilt upon your soul. Atone on earth that you may claim mercy in Heaven.
Kizzie
(Is silent, except for labored breathing)
Bendy
She has fainted.
Aleck.
I fear she is dying. Bendy, down on your knees with me, and let us pray. (Kneels)
Bendy
(Kneels) I don't know how to pray, Aleck.
Aleck.
Repeat after me, Bendy. (with feeling) "Our Father - who art in Heaven" (Bendy repeats) Hallowed be thy name! (Buzzard enters as prayer begins)
Aleck.
Thy Kingdom come.
Buzzard
What stuff is this? Are you carrying on a Salvation Army meeting.
Aleck.
(Rises, grabs Buzzard drags him to window, throws him out falls on knees again) "Thy will be done - on earth—

C U R T A I N.
" " " " " " "

Act Third.

Same set as Act Second. Sitting room of the Home Hotel. Bendy is discovered at rise looking out window. Aleck enters carrying bundle)

Aleck.
What little gal, are you up already?

Bendy
Aleck, I haven't been to bed at all. I've been sitting up waiting and watching for you. Tell me, how is Mother Mandelbum?

Aleck.
Ahem! She'll live all right, wants to leave the hospital already. She's a wonderful woman, the police tried to question, she refused to say a word, or make any charge whatever.

Bendy
Did she say anything about me.

Aleck.
She did.

Bendy
What was it?

Aleck.
Well, I shouldn't like to tell you.

Bendy
Please.

Aleck.
She said you were a cunning little cat to block her scheme of doping me, and when she came out of the hospital she was going to make you into chicken stew.

Bendy
And nothing more about who I really am, or about my people.

Aleck.
Nothing my poor little gal, nothing- but keep up a brave heart. Even if she don't do you right. When I go from here, you shall go with me. You shall live among honest people and take your place among God's creatures. By the way, any signs of the vermin, Baker and Buzzard.

Bendy
Yes, Buzzard is all lamed up. Baker and him had an awful time with Casey to get him to open the safe.

Aleck.
And he won't do it without Mrs. Mandelbum's orders. Yes he told me all about it. He's a square Irish man is Casey

Bendy
And now they are plotting burglary I heard them.

Aleck.
I know that too. A stool pigeon warned the police how he had loaned them the tools. They must want that envelope pretty bad. I wonder what's in it?

Bendy
It must be that mortgage paper they spoke of. Buzzard says he wanted to get those blood stains out. (Aleck clenches his fists raises them to Heaven.)

Bendy
Why what are you doing?

Aleck.
I'm just praying a little, again Bendy, and I think God's going to answer my prayer.

Bendy
What have you in that bundle.

Aleck.
A disguise. I had to get a disguise you know. Detectives always have disguises, I captured a whole gang of horse thieves once in disguise.

Bendy
Were you in disguise or the horse thieves in disguise-
Aleck.
Oh, quit your kidding.
Bendy
Why Aleck, you are talking slang.
Aleck.
So I am, well I'll tie a can to it"
Bendy
Why that's more of it.
Aleck.
Yes, I know, I know it isn't right for me to preach what I don't practice, but Bendy it's so derned expressive, (takes wig whiskers, coat, hat etc from bundle) Do you know who I'm going to be? (Starts to make up)
Bendy
No.
Aoeck.
I am going to be Mrs. Mandelbums uncle from Hoboken.
Bendy
But he's dead.
Aleck.
I'm going to be the liveliest dead one, Buzzard and that other bird ever fell up against. Bendy Mother Mandelbum's uncle is to be resurrected, just this once. It's lucky he is dead, he might kick at my imitation. (Puts on coat, stands up) Behold "Knyphuysen Archump!" (Poses) Take my other things inside, and stay there till I call. (Bendy gathers up other clothes exit into room L 2 E)
Aleck.
(Takes out hand cuffs, examines them) Oh, they're all right, Jiggins made them. He's a handy cuss. (puts them back in pocket) I wish he was here now to hold Buzzard while I settle with the other crook. (Enter Buzzard door in flat, he starts on seeing Aleck)
Aleck.
Buzzard, by thunder. (In german dialect) Vell. Gum in. Gum in. Or stay oudt. Don'd clog up mit yourself the doorway. Vat you vant, eh? Vat you vant?
Buzzard
I am the Landlord and - and I've come for my rent.
Aleck.
What rent, at such a time as this.
Buzzard
It is six in the morning, and I am an early riser.
Aleck.
What? (Loudly) My niece is not here.
Buzzard
Your niece, are you Mrs. Mandelbums Uncle?
Aleck.
Yah, from Weehawken, I am Knyphensen Archump.
Buzzard
How do you spell it?
Aleck.
I don't spell it. I sneeze it, or cough it.
Buzzard
Well, will you "cough" up my rent.
Aleck.
Nein! Nein!
Buzzard
Nein, nein. It's a hundred. Have you any idea where Mrs. Mandelbum has gone.
Aleck.
Nein, I hope she has gone to Heaven, but I haf my doubts.

Buzzard

What, dead.

Aleck.

Yah, she has kicked der growler. That is why I am here from Weehawken- possession to take of eferthing. Ach, Poor Kizzie.

Buzzard

But I can't lose my rent, when will they bury her.

Aleck.

After the inquest.

Buzzard

They shan't bury her till I get my rent.

I'll attach the corpse.

Aleck.

(Loudly) Buzzard, sit down.

Buzzard

Eh! (starts) How do you know my name is Buzzard.

Aleck.

My niece toldt me, her landlordt was a wall-eyed, spavined dunghill Shanghai rooster, but his name was Buzzard.

Buzzard

Did she tell you before she died.

Aleck.

Yah. She couldn't tell me it after she died, Dum Kopf!

Buzzard.

And is that the only word she left for me.

Aleck.

Nein, she saidt, Tell dot oldt Christmas gift dot unclean oldt bird, Buzzard that I am going to Heaven. He can go to - to the odder place.

Buzzard

Didn't she tell you to pay the rent?

Aleck.

Nein, she said, if you come around for the rent, I should dust the furniture mit you.

Buzzard

Dust the furniture with me? See here I want to be settled with--

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Aleck.

Yah, she saidt, dot- she saidt if making a duster of you didn't settle you, I was to break your back and wash windows mit you. (Grabs Buzzard.)

Buzzard

You're a lunatic. Let go, you crazy Dutchman!

Aleck.

Set down Buzzard! (Grabs Buzzard by coat, Buzzard wriggles out of coat, leaving it in Aleck's hands. It is seen then that Buzzard has no shirt on, only under collar and dirty shirt cravat)

Buzzard

(Calls) Police! Police!

Billy.

(Enters carrying tools in bag) What's all this noise, here?

Buzzard

It's Kizzie's crazy uncle from Weehawken. He says Kizzie is dead, and he's here to take charge and--

Aleck.

(With dignity) Is it necessary to tell this man all my private business? What is he? The "plumber" that he comes in here - like - like Bismark.

Billy.
See here, I ain't no plumber. (Drops bag of tools on Buzzard's toe, Buzzard hops and howls with pain.)

Aleck.
No plumber, eh. Then what sort of a greasy mechanic are you?

Billy.
I ain't no mechanic. I never did a day's work in my life.

Aleck.
I believe you.

Billy.
What do you mean by saying Kizzie is dead.

Aleck
She telephoned she was dead, and I believe everything a woman tells me.

Billy.
You do, well, you're a soft one.

Aleck.
Nein, I'm a hard one, I'm as hardt as nails all ofer. Feel my muscles. My business makes me strong.

Billy.
What is your business?

Aleck.
Nein, I won't tell you. You might tell someone else.

Billy
No, I'm too much of a gentleman to blab.

Aleck.
Ah, you may be, but that "Buzzard thing" there- He tells all he knows.

Billy.
(Aside to Buzzard) This guy is nutty all right, we're wasting time, go down and be by when Casey leaves the bar, and let me know. I've arranged for a fake message from the hospital to him, we'll then have a fair chance at the safe, I'll take care of this mutt! (Indicating Aleck)

Buzzard
(Snatches up coat which Aleck has thrown down puts it on. gets up to door, shakes fist at Aleck) You piece of Dutch cheese, I'll fix you yet, (Exit door in flat)

Billy.
(Stopping Aleck as he starts after Buzzard) Don't mind him. Tell me, what do you do for a living.

Aleck.
(Mysteriously) I make tools, the finest tools in the world.

Billy.
What kind of tools?

Aleck.
Burglars tools.

Billy
(Starts) what, what are you giving me.

Aleck.
The straight goods, Bronx Billy.

Billy
What you know me.

Aleck
Of course I know you. I would like to propose you to my lodge.

Billy
What lodge.

Aleck
I am a member of the Burglars' Union, and in good standing Billy! I am a great inventor.

Billy.
Inventor, eh? (aside) Now I'm sure he's off.
Aleck.
I have something here, I'll show it to you. (reaches in pocket)

Billy
Invention eh? Got it with you, let me help you find it. (Reaches for Aleck's pockets, Aleck produces hand-cuffs and as Billy has both hands up to Alecks breast, he snaps cuffs on Billy's wrists) Why, what the hell--
Aleck.
I call this my patent regulator. They'll hold anything from a mule to a mouse. I've used them on four legged cattle, and I find them useful for two legged cattle. Do you see. (Laughs)

Billy.
Yes, I see, but they hurt me, take 'em off. Do you hear, take them off I say.
Aleck.
No, I won't take 'em off, I say.
Billy
Why not?
Aleck.
Because I've had too much trouble to get them on.
Billy
Trapped by thunder, what do you want of me.
Aleck
I want your full confession of the cowardly murder of Captain Harry Smart, and by thunder I'm going to get it.
Billy
No you ain't. (Rushes on Aleck) (Endeavoring to strike him with hand-cuffs Aleck grapples him, throws him on table)
Aleck.
Be quiet, dern you, or I'll throttle you with my hands before judge and jury get their chance.
Billy.
Who the devil are you?
Aleck.
(throws off disguise) I'm Aleck Smart, Deputy Sheriff from up State.
Billy.
And you're arresting me on suspicion, eh.
Aleck.
I'm arresting you on a dead certainty. Why this watch your wearing was my brothers. I gave it to him myself. Your traps here have been gone over by the police, they found my brothers' coin purse, his wife made for him the shark's tooth he carried as a charm. William Baker I've got you dead to rights, and you'll be tried for murder as sure as we are standing here.
Billy.
Look out, I've got a pull, and men with that, don't suffer much when they're tried for murder in this old town.
Aleck.
But you'll be tried up state William Baker, where your pull ain't worth a damn, come along.
Billy.
Say don't be in a hurry old man.
Aleck.
But I am in a hurry, a big hurry too.
Billy
I was hired to do that job on your brother.

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Aleck.

Oh I know that, and I know who hired you. After the hireling the master. We'll get old Buzzard too. (Buzzard re-enters stands listening) Yes you and Buzzard are a lovely gang. No doubt you'll both try to turn States Evidence but I think we've got things all mapped out to send you both to the chair. (Buzzard picks up rope which has a slip knot in it, steals down behind Aleck throws noose over shoulders and arm, pulls rope tight, at that moment Billy grabs Aleck by leg up-ending him, Aleck struggles but is unable to get a footing, Buzzard winds rope around and around Aleckx body, ties it behind. Aleck repeatedly yells "Let go of my leg" Billy urges Buzzard on)

Billy.

Tie him tight Ebenezar.

Buzzard

Now Mr. Smart Aleck, never count your chickens before they are hatched.

Billy.

Quick, search him for the key of these things.

Aleck

Search and be durned to ye, I ain't got it.

Billy.

Who has.

Aleck.

The Captain at the police station. You'll have to go there to get them off.

Billy

There's a file in the bag there. Get that, and file them off.

Buzzard

(Produces knife) Let me cut his throat first.

Billy.

No cut these hand-cuffs off first. I can't be any good with these things on.

Aleck

You couldn't be any good with them on or off.

Billy.

(As Buzzard returns with file from tool bag) Hurry up, it can't take over five minutes.

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Buzzard

(trying file on them) Five minutes, they're as hard as flint, if I was a betting man, I,d bet I can't get them off in five hours.

Aleck

I'll bet five dollars, you don't get them off in five days. Van Jiggins made them, and you bet they're put on to stay on.

Billy

Push him into that room. He gets on my nerves.

Buzzard

Let me stick him just once, I want to see him squirm.

Billy

No, I want that pleasure myself, just before we leave. (Buzzard pushes Aleck into room L 2 E returns to file business)

Billy.

Hurry up. Buzzard, Say did you get Casey away from the bar?

Buzzard

(Filing) Yes, he fell for the fake telephone message like an angel.

Billy.
We must crack that safe, and I must skip. He's got me cold, all right all right. He knows the whole business.

Buzzard
He can't use much of his knowledge when he's in the grave. (Re-enter Aleck and Bendy. They steal cautiously across stage at back, Exuent door in flat)

Billy.
But what he knows, someone else may know.

Buzzard
It's no use Billy, I can't even scratch these things, and besides there's a spring in them that's got to come out, and it will have to be broken with a hammer. There's a blacksmith's shop down the street, let's go there, you carry your coat on your arm and no one will see you.

Billy
Buzzard, give me your knife.

Buzzard
What for.

Billy
Before I go, I am going to finish that Rube detective.

Buzzard
Take it with pleasure, (hands Billy knife, Billy takes it in both hands. They cross to door L 2 E)

Billy
(Looks) He's gone.

Buzzard
What, gone where? (Knock on door at back.)

Billy
Who's there.

Aleck.
Aleck Smart- Deputy Sheriff from up State. (enters with Bendy) I'll take you Bronx Billy also you, Ebenezar Buzzard. You are both charged with murder and you Buzzard with kidnapping this child known as Bendy.

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Buzzard
You have no proofs.

Kizzie
(Enters with policeman) I will give all the evidence nexessary. I have the baby's clothes marked with her name, my husband's death bed confession, that the girl known as Bendy- her real name is Mary Norman, and stolen from her mother by you, Here Mr. Smart are the mortgage and release, left with me and stained with your brother's blood.

Aleck.
My brother, and Bendy - think- you are my brothers' step child. I am your step Uncle.

Bendy
Step Uncle, that ain't so much.

Aleck.
We may make the relationship closer, some day. Ah there's a despairing woman up State tonight and I will seem to her like a messenger of light.

C U R T A I N.
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